

116, 117, 118, 119 which can be moved radially inwardly and outwardly according to the diameter of the tubular to be accommodated. As can be better seen in Figure 2, each arm 114, 115 is pivoted on a respective pin 120, 121 and is provided with a respective pin 122, 123 which can travel within respective arcuate slots 124, 125 in a traverse member 126.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 7, page 7 with the following paragraph:

At the commencement of a running operation the telescopic arm 109 is lowered into a horizontal position by contracting piston-and-cylinder assembly 131. The arms 114 and 115 are then opened and the head 112 maneuvered so that the arms 114 and 115 lie around the tubular to be positioned. The arms 114 and 115 are then closed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 14, page 7 with the following paragraph:

The tubular is then maneuvered into position above and in alignment with a lower tubular held in slips. The tubular is then lowered so that the pin enters the socket and the joint is then made up in the usual manner. When the tubular is in this position the operator presses a button marked "memorise" on his console.

In the Abstract

Please add the following paragraph as the abstract:

An apparatus is provided with position sensors. When the apparatus has moved one tubular into alignment with another tubular a button on a remote control console is pressed to memorise the position. After the next tubular has been gripped by the apparatus a "recall" button is pressed and the apparatus automatically moves the next tubular to the memorised position. This saves vital seconds in joining tubulars and also reduces the likelihood of threads being damaged due to misalignment of the tubulars.